

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Section 73.202(b),)	MB Docket No. 03-222
Table of Allotments,)	RM-10812
FM Broadcast Stations.)	
(Charlotte and Grand Ledge, Michigan))	

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: October 22, 2003

Released: October 24, 2003

Comment Date: December 15, 2003

Reply Comment Date: December 30, 2003

By the Assistant Chief, Audio Division:

1. The Audio Division has before it a petition for rule making filed by Rubber City Radio Group ("Petitioner"), licensee of Station WQTX(FM) ("WQTX"), Channel 224A, Charlotte, Michigan. Petitioner seeks to amend the FM Table of Allotments by modifying the license of Station WQTX to specify operation on 225A and by changing Station WQTX's community of license from Charlotte to Grand Ledge, Michigan. This reallocation would provide Grand Ledge with its first local aural transmission service. Petitioner states that if the Commission grants its petition for rule making, petitioner will file an application to operate on Channel 225A at Grand Ledge.

2. Petitioner seeks to invoke the provisions of Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's rules which permits the modification of a station's authorization to specify a new community of license without affording other interested parties an opportunity to file competing expressions of interest.¹ In support of its proposal, Petitioner explains that the proposed use of Channel 225A at Grand Ledge is mutually exclusive with Station WQTX's existing authorization at Charlotte.

3. Petitioner asserts that the adoption of its proposal will result in a preferential arrangement of allotments consistent with the *Revision of FM Assignment Policies and Procedures*,² by providing Grand Ledge, Michigan (2000 U.S. Census population of 7,813), with its first local aural transmission service. The allotment of Channel 225A to Grand Ledge would not deprive Charlotte of its sole local transmission outlet, because Charlotte will retain local service from Station WLCM(AM).

4. Grand Ledge is partially located within the Lansing, Michigan Urbanized Area and Petitioner's proposal would place a 70 dBu contour over 82.5 percent of that urbanized area. In these circumstances, Petitioner must submit a showing of Grand Ledge's independence from the Lansing Urbanized Area in

¹ See *Modification of FM and TV Authorizations to Specify a New Community of License*, 4 FCC Rcd 4870 (1989), recon. granted in part, 5 FCC Rcd 7094 (1990).

² 90 FCC 2d 88 (1982). The allotment priorities are: (1) first full-time aural service; (2) second full-time aural service; (3) first local service and (4) other public interest matters. Equal weight is given to priorities (2) and (3).

order to demonstrate its entitlement to consideration as a first local service.³ Petitioner has submitted a *Tuck* showing and we seek comment from the public on this showing. We believe that Petitioner's proposal warrants consideration since the allotment of Channel 225A to Grand Ledge, Michigan, could provide a first local aural transmission service to Grand Ledge.

5. The transmitter site for Station WQTX will be relocated to accommodate Petitioner's request to reallocate Station WQTX from Charlotte to Grand Ledge. Petitioner states that its proposal will enable Station WQTX to increase its facilities from 3 kilowatts of effective radiated power (ERP) to 6 kilowatts of ERP, thus providing a net gain in service to 159,068 people and a net gain in area served of 666.3 square kilometers.⁴ Petitioner asserts that both the loss and gain areas will be well-served with 5 or more reception services. Since Petitioner's proposal is consistent with the provisions of Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's Rules, we shall propose to modify the authorization of Station WQTX without entertaining competing expressions of interest in the use of Channel 225A at Grand Ledge, Michigan, or requiring Petitioner to demonstrate the availability of an additional equivalent channel for use by other parties.

6. Consistent with the technical requirements of the Commission's Rules, Channel 225A can be allotted to Grand Ledge, Michigan, at Petitioner's specified site, utilizing coordinates 42-42-17 NL and 84-37-20 WL, with a site restriction of 11.5 kilometers (7.2 miles) southeast of Grand Ledge.

7. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment to the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, with respect to the communities listed below, as follows:

<u>Channel Nos.</u>		
<u>City</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Charlotte, Michigan	224A	-----
Grand Ledge, Michigan	-----	225A

8. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

9. Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, interested parties may file comments on or before December 15, 2003, and reply comments on or before December 30, 2003, and

³ See *Faye and Richard Tuck*, 3 FCC Rcd 5374 (1988) ("*Tuck*") and *Headland, Alabama, and Chattahoochee, Florida*, 10 FCC Rcd 10352 (1995) (a reallocation proposal requires a showing pursuant to *Tuck* when the proposed 70 dBu contour will encompass more than 50% of an urbanized area).

⁴ Petitioner is currently operating with facilities equivalent to the former Class A maximum of 3 kilowatts ERP and 100 meters antenna height above average terrain (HAAT). Its predicted service area assumes 6 kilowatts ERP and 100 meters antenna HAAT.

are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on Petitioner's counsel, as follows:

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Mark N. Lipp, Esq.
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10. Parties must file an original and four paper copies of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

11. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules. *See Certification that Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

12. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact R. Barthen Gorman, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement.

Any comment, which has not been served on the petitioner, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment that has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Assistant Chief, Audio Division
Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority contained in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off Procedures. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal in this Notice, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Information Center (Room CY-A257), at its headquarters, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Washington, D.C.